F the bottom of a cowslip [8] : Here's a voucher, Stronger than ever law could make : this secret Will force him think I have pick'd the lock, and
ta'en The treasure of her honour. No more.—To what
end ?
Why should I write this down, that's rivetted, Screw'd to my memory ? She hath been reading
late
The tale of Tereus[9]; here the leaf's turn'd down, Where Philomel gave up ; —I have enough: To the trunk again, and shut the spring of it. Swift, swift, you dragons of the night[1]*1*—that
dawning May bare the raven's eye [2]: I lodge in fear;

s f-------->]j^e the cr im son drops

? the bottom of a cowslip :] This simile contains the smallest out of a thousand proofs that Shakspeare was an observer of nature, though, in this instance, no very accurate describer of it, for the drops alluded to are of a deep yellow. STEEVENS.

9-----She hath been reading late

THE TALE of TEREUS :] *Tereus and Progne* is the second tale in A Petite Palace of Pettie his Pleasure, printed in quarto, in 1576. The same tale is related in Gower's poem De Confessione Amantis, b, -v. fol. 113, b. and in Ovid's Metamorphoses, 1. vi. MALONE.

i — you DRAGONS of the night I] The task of drawing the chariot of night was assigned to dragons, on account of their supposed watchfulness. Milton mentions " the dragon yoke of night" in II Penseroso ; and in his Masque at Ludlow Castle :

"-------the *dragon tuomb*
" Of Stygian darkness."

Again, In Obi turn Prsesulis Eliensis :

----sub pedibus deam
Vidi triformem, dum coe'rcebat suos
Frsenis *dracones* aureis.

It may be remarked, that the whole tribe of serpents .sleep with their eyes open, and therefore appear to exert a constant vigilance. STEEVENS.

a--------that dawning

May BARE the raven's eye:] The old copy has—beare. The eofreetion was proposed by Mr. Theobald: and I think properly adopted by Sir T. Hanmer and I>r. Johnson. MALONE.